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Publications Reviewed

The Birds of Connecticut. State of Connecticut State Geological and Natural History Survey, Bulletin No. 20. By John Hall Sage, M.S., Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union, and Louis Bennett Bishop, M.D., Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, assisted by Walter Parks Bliss, M.A., Hartford, 1913.

In an Introduction of four and a half pages the location of the state is given, and a glimpse of its topography and faunal areas, which are defined as Alleghenian over the greater part of the state, with a small area of Canadian in the north-western corner, or at least Canadian affinities. We learn that the first definite state list was prepared by Rev. James H. Linsley and published in 1843, the second by Dr. C. Hart Merriam in 1877, and thirty-four years after the first list, while the present list appears after an equal lapse of time. The Introduction closes with a plea for accuracy in making records which can be certainly secured only when specimens of unusual birds are collected. It is clearly shown that such collecting as this entails does not menace the bird life of any region.

In the treatment of the 329 native species known to occur within the borders of Connecticut the names and sequences of the Check-List of the American Ornithologists' Union are followed, but the numbers happily omitted. Divisions are made including orders, suborders, families, subfamilies, the scientific name followed by the vernacular name. There follows a statement of the status of the species in the state, the earliest and the latest seasonal records, breeding records of breeding birds and earliest and latest migration records of transient birds. In the case of unusual or rare occurrence all records are given. A statistical summary shows that the list comprises 80 resident species, 78 summer residents, 38 winter residents, 124 transient visitors, and 80 accidental visitors. There are five introduced species included. The grand total shows 334 for the state, which seems large for so small a state as Connecticut, with practically but one life zone. This may not appear so unlikely when it is known that some 150 persons are named as contributors in one way or another. In a bibliography of 57 pages there appears a further reason why the number of birds recorded in the state is so large. The book closes with about a hundred pages on Economic Ornithology, by Dr. Bishop. The treatment is systematically by groups, but many species are separately treated where their importance warrants such separate treatment. An excellent index adds much to the usefulness of the book. The typography and paper leave little to be desired. As a contribution to

faunal and economic ornithology it is a most welcome addition to our literature, and furnishes a model for similar works in other places. We congratulate the authors. L. J.

Some Birds of the Fresno District, California. By John G. Tyler. The Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 9. Hollywood, October 1, 1913.

This paper makes no claims to completeness, but is rather presented now that it may furnish a working basis for a future complete survey of the region which occupies the exact geographical center of the state. It is a lowland of not over 400 feet elevation, and lies within the Lower Sonoran Zone. The author states that the steady reduction of the swampy areas by drainage marks the doom of such nesting birds as depend upon the cover afforded by such a swampy environment. The check-list of species, which precedes the General Account of the Species, gives 161 species. The treatment is systematic, and each species named is accompanied with copious annotations relating to the occurrences, relative abundance, migration, nesting, food habits, and many side lights upon the life of the birds. We are seldom treated, in a paper of this sort, with such a wealth of interesting things as this author presents. May his tribe increase! In paper, typography, and general appearance this latest number of the California Avifauna series maintains the high standard set at the inception of the series. L. J.

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Three papers by Edgar A. Mearns.

Vol. 61, No. 10. Descriptions of four new African Thrushes of the Genera *Planesticus* and *Geocichla*. August 11, 1913. One is a new species — *Planesticus helleri* — from Mount Mbololo, altitude 4,000 feet, east of Mount Kilimanjaro, British East Africa, collected November 9, 1911, by Edmund Heller, on the Paul J. Rainey African Expedition. The other described forms are subspecies, one of *Planesticus*, the others *Geocichla*.

Vol. 61, No. 11. Descriptions of six new African Birds. August 30, 1913. "Four of the forms here described are from the collection made by the Childs Frick African Expedition, 1911-12; and two are from the Smithsonian African Expedition, 1909-10 collection, made under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt." Five were collected by the author and one by Childs Frick. Five are new subspecies of *Cisticola*, one of *Pyromelana*.

Vol. 61, No. 14. Descriptions of Five New African Weaver-Birds of the Genera *Othyphantes*, *Hypargos*, *Aidemosyne*, and *Lagonoticta*. September 20, 1913. "Four of the forms here described are from the collections made by the Childs Frick African Expedition,